

Japanese Orders Briefly Explained

The Collar of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum

(大勲位菊花章頸飾) (DAIKUN-I KIKKASHO KUBIKAZARI)

Instituted in 1888; given to one who already has the Grand Cordon of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum or given together with the said Cordon. This is the highest order in Japan.

The Grand Cordon of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum

(大勲位菊花大綬章) (DAIKUN-I KIKKADAIJUCHO)

Instituted in 1877; this ranks next after the above-mentioned Collar.

The Grand Cordon of the First Order of the Rising Sun with Paulownia Flowers

(勲一等旭日桐花大綬章)

(KUN ITTO KYOKUJITSU DOKA DAIJUSHO)

Instituted in 1888; this ranks next after the preceding Grand Cordon of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum.

The Order of the Rising Sun

(旭日章) (KYOKUJITSUSHO)

Instituted in 1875; has eight classes - 1st - 8th Order; the Orders have their respective designations as follows:-

1. The Grand Cordon of the First Order of the Rising Sun

(勲一等旭日大綬章)

2. The Second Order of the Rising Sun with Double Rays

(勲二等旭日重光章)

3. The Intermediate Cordon of the Third Order of the Rising Sun (勳三等旭日中綬章)
4. The Minor Cordon of the Fourth Order of the Rising Sun (勳四等旭日小綬章)
5. The Fifth Order of the Rising Sun with Double Rays (勳五等双光旭日章)
6. The Sixth Order of the Rising Sun with Single Rays (勳六等單光旭日章)
7. The Seventh Order of the Rising Sun with Green Paulownia Leaves (勳七等青桐葉章)
8. The Eighth Order of the Rising Sun with White Paulownia Leaves (勳八等白色桐葉章)

The above Orders are given to both Government officials and ordinary civilians for their military or civilian services; they are given only to men.

The Order of the Precious Crown

(寶冠章) (HOKANSHO)

Instituted in 1888; has eight classes - 1st - 8th Order; given to women only.

The Order of the Sacred Treasure

(瑞寶章) (ZUIHOSHŌ)

Instituted in 1888; has eight classes - 1st - Eighth Order; given to Government officials and ordinary civilians for their military or civil services; given to men and women.

The three preceding Orders rank according to their classes, but when they are of the same class, the Order of the Rising Sun and the Order of the Precious Crown take precedence over the Order of the Sacred Treasure.

The Order of the Golden Kite

(金鷄勳章) (KINKIKUNCHO)

Instituted in 1890; has 7 classes - 1st - 7th Order; given to soldiers or military or naval employees for distinguished military or naval service.

The Order of Culture

(文化勳章) (BUNKA KUNCHO)

Instituted in 1937; has only one class; given to men and women for distinguished service contributing to the advancement of culture, but so far no woman has been a recipient.

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日本現行勳章概略説明

大勳位菊花章頸飾

一八八八年に創設。大勳位菊花大綬章を有する者に授與する。又は大勳位菊花大綬章と云に授與する。日本最高勳章である。

大勳位菊花大綬章

一八七七年に創設。前記大勳位菊花章頸飾に次ぐ勳章である。

勳一等旭日桐花大綬章

一八八八年に創設。前記菊花大綬章の次に授與する勳章である。

旭日章

一八七五年に創設。勳一等旭日章より勳二等旭日章に至る八階級に分れている。勳一等以下夫々についで旭日大綬章、旭日垂光章、旭日中綬章、旭日小綬章、雙叉光旭日章、單光旭日章、青色桐葉章、白色桐葉章という別の名がついている。

No. 1. 以上の勳章は文勳、武功いづれに對しても又官民を問はず授與する。但し男子に限られている。

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